

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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UNCLAS BUDAPEST 2420

USIA FOR IEU

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC HU (ORBAN, OTTO)
SUBJECT: FY-1977 INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM: NOMINATION OF
MR. OTTO ORBAN

REF: STATE 163210, BUDAPEST 1991

1. NAME: OTTO ORBAN.
PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM
TYPE OF GRANT: MULTIREGIONAL PROJECT, CODE 211.
JUSTIFICATION: NOMINATED BY THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL REALTIONS,
INTERVIEWED AND APPROVED BY P&C OFFICER. NOMINEE IS WINNER OF
THE PRESTIGIOUS JOZSEF ATTILA LITERARY PRIZE IN 1973 AND THE
ROBERT GRAVES PRIZE IN 1974.
TENTATIVE VISA ELIGIBILITY: CONSULAR SECTION HAS NOTHING ON
RECORD TO INDICATE VISA INELIGIBILITY.
AVAILABILITY DATES: DATES OF PROJECT.

2. BIOGRAPHIC DATA:
PLACE OF BIRTH: BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
DATE OF BIRTH: MAY 20, 1936.
MARITAL STATUS: MARRIED, TWO CHILDREN.
PRESENT POSITION: FREE-LANCE WRITER.
ACADEMIC BACKGROUND: UNFINISHED UNIVERSITY STUDIES.
PUBLICATIONS:
POETRY: BLACK FEAST, 1960; THE DAY OF CREATION, 1963;
FAREWELL TO BETHLEHEM, 1967; RESSURECTION POSTPONED, 1971;
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HUMAN SACRIFICE, 1973; A PERSPECTIVE OF THE SQGRY, 1976.

TRANSLATIONS: OF ROBERT LOWELL'S "NEAR THE OCEAN",
"THE OLD GLORY"; ALLEN GINSBERG'S "HOWL".
IN PREPARATION: "THE CREATION OF THE WORLD", COLLECTION
OF HUMOROUS POEMS AND PARODIES AND "ESZTERLANC", POEMS FOR
CHILDREN.
LANGUAGES: VERY GOOD ENGLISH.
TRAVEL: INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN.
ADDRESSYQ 1023 BUDAPEST, FRANKEL LEO UT 84.

3. MR. ORBAN'S CAREER AS A POET BEGAN AT AGE ELEVEN WHILE
IN A HOME FOR WAR ORPHANS. SINCE THE PUBLICAOFON OF HISROZFIRST VOLU
ME OF POEMS IN 1960, HE HAS BEEN CONSIDERED A
CONTROVERSIAL POET, AN IMAGINATIVE INNOVATOR, A MODERNIST
CHARLATAN, AND ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING TALENTS OF HIS
GENERATION. DURING THE LAST DECADE, A NUMBER OF HIS
WORKS HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, FRENCH
AND SPANISH.

4. IF ACCEPTED FOR PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT, MR. ORBAN
HOPES TO MEET WITH NUMEROUS AMERICAN POETS AND WRITERS.
HE IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATION
AND ESPECIALLY ADMIRES ALLEN GINSBERG (WHOM HE HAS
TRANSLATED INTO HUNGARIAN) AND OTHER POETS OF THAT
PARTICULAR GENRE.

5. WHILE IN THE U.S. HE WOULD HOPE TO VISIT CITIES LIKE
SAN FRANCISCO, BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA, MINNEAPOLIS AND
CHICAGO. UPON HIS RETURN TO HUNGARY HE HOPES TO CONDENSE
AND PUBLISH HIS IMPRESSIONS AND EXPERIENCES IN AMERICA.
HE IS INTERESTED IN POP AND COUNTRY MUSIC AND ARCHITECTURE,
AND HOPES TO VISIT ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS AND MUSIC
CENTERS LIKE NASHVILLE, LOS ANGELES, NEW YORK AND DETROIT.
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